

March brings out crowd

Parade celebrates International Women's Day

by P. and Browne

Chanting "Not the church and not the state, women must control their fate," a crowd of 200 demonstrators, mostly women, braved sub-zero temperatures as they proceeded from Complexe Guy Favreau to Concordia to mark the annual Women's Day March on March 5.

Themes of the demonstration included equality in the workplace, rights of lesbians, and the recent Supreme Court decision on abortion. Many women expressed a moral victory because of that legislation, but maintained the struggle for free and accessible abortions was far from over.

The hour long march ended at Concordia's Sir George William campus. Marie Lorette Destin, a leading Haitian feminist, provided a brief historical view of the growing women's movement in Haiti.

Feminist Lea Robark called upon younger women to continue to fight for women's rights. She also called for support for women in the Third World. "We need support," she said, "but don't forget the other people who need support."

Marie-Josée Rotier, representing Naissance Renaissance à Québec demanded the integration of midwives into the health care system. According to Rotier, this would "allow women to have more control during the birthing process."

Rotier said the government ignores the importance of midwives despite a growing demand for their services. "The competence of midwives has time and time again been proven, but the Canadian government continues to deny recognition of midwifery," she said, adding Canada and South Africa are the only two countries which have not legalized the services of midwives.

Concluding remarks from the march organizers called the demonstration "An important success" and urged unity with other socially oppressed movements to further the cause of women's liberation.



Parading past the obstacles: the International Women's Day March.

SOS fights racism

by Eric Smith

SOS Racism is concentrating on "building for the future", by holding an education week for CEGEPs and Maisons de Jeunes across the province. The events are aimed at raising consciousness about issues of racism.

Lucie Dufour, SOS Racism member responsible for the week's co-ordination said, "We're at the stage of sensibilization, people are becoming conscious (of racism)."

Events will include discussion panels, film projections, and dinners. Different groups are organizing their activities around the problems of racism as manifested in their communities.

"Groups organize and form by

themselves," said Dufour. "They know their environment well." As an example, she explained the activities being organized by the group at the Maison des Jeunes St. Félicien in Lac-St. Jean which are focused on intercultural co-operation with an adjacent native community.

The group is planning a pot-luck supper with members of native youth groups. Dufour said she received a letter from an SOS Racism member in Lac-St. Jean. "She wrote that they didn't experience the same problems of racism as in Montréal and their goal was co-operation against racism with native people."

Other schools and Maisons de Jeunes are organizing discussions

on affirmative action and workshops on defining and fighting racism.

The project's focus on Maisons de Jeunes and schools is "due to a lack of resources" according to Dufour. She added, "We hope that it will grow, it's just starting. We are in the process of building a province-wide network."

Schools in Montréal that have chapters of SOS Racism are UQAM and CEGEP St. Laurent. Both are planning to set up information booths as part of their contribution to SOS Racism's education week.

The week will end with a final plenary at which representatives from the different groups will gather to evaluate the project and decide on follow-up activities.

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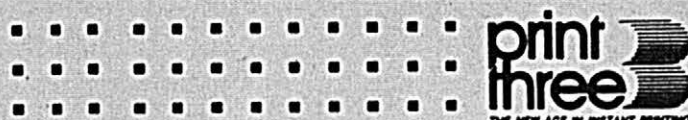
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Daily constitutional amendments: What you should know.

Quorum requirement:

This amendment basically closes a loop-hole in the Daily Publications Society Constitution. Under the current text, the Board of Directors is not bound by a referendum unless it receives a 15 per cent minimum turnout. But this still leaves the Board the option of approving the referendum.

In other words, a referendum in which only 12 people voted could be considered a valid referendum by the Board. It's not a disastrous situation, since the Board is composed of six students elected in a campus-wide referendum and three representatives elected by the staff of the paper.

However, university guidelines for student constitutions stipulate that a referendum without quorum must be considered invalid. As well, the University has specified the level of 10 per cent as the standard quorum requirement.

Fee mechanism:

The Daily is often confronted with unexpected operating expenses and increases in basic costs—like printing and distribution. The only way for the Society to increase its basic revenue is to conduct a campus referendum at specific times during the academic year.

The proposed alteration to the fee mechanism will allow the student-elected members of the Daily Board of Directors to make minor changes in the fee structure to reflect an increase or decrease in operating expenses. In the long run, this will make the Daily a more cost-effective operation, capable of guaranteeing a high level of service to the student body.

Running a referendum is very expensive. In the last 5 years, the Daily has had to spend over \$25 000 on referenda alone. This is money which could have been spent on publishing.

The proposed amendment will effect a minor transfer in decision-making authority from a costly referendum to the hands of student-elected representatives. To ensure that representatives accurately represent their constituency, any modification of the fee structure which exceeds five per cent will still be subject to ratification by referendum.

Both the staff of the *Daily* and the student representatives on the Board of Directors encourage you to vote for these two amendments. Together, they guarantee a higher level of accountability and service.

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City friendly to athletics complex

by Eric Smith

If all goes according to plan, McGill may have a new Athletics Complex next year.

A report released by the Montréal Committee on Cultural Affairs calls for public hearings and the establishment of a master plan between the city and McGill and Université de Montréal to create space for the proposed complex.

Students' Society of McGill University V.P. External, Chris Alexander, is happy with the conclusions of the report. "We're pretty encouraged," he said. "Two recommendations were favorable to us. The report mentioned that Université de Montréal and McGill are eager for a joint master plan and included the proposal SSMU made for public hearings. It looks like the universities will have de facto autonomy after the master plan is approved."

Director of Physical Resources, Sam Kingdon, is also happy with the plan. "This is what the university was asking for," he said. "We wanted the city to work with us for a master plan for both universities."

The original project was the source of controversy over the pro-

tection of Mount Royal as a heritage site. The committee's report takes into account requests made by Heritage Montréal and les Amis de la Montagne.

Joshua Wolfe of Heritage Montréal said, "When it comes to the idea of joint planning (with the

universities) I think it's a good idea provided there is public discussion."

He added, "There probably are ways of giving McGill facilities without diminishing the visual appreciation of the mountain."

Alexander said SSMU has been in

contact with les Amis de la Montagne throughout the year and have been in agreement over the major points of the report.

"This report shows the city can work pretty well with groups concerned with heritage sites," he added.

Limit may occur in art history

by Katie Downie

Enrollment in Art History courses may soon be open only to department majors, despite student protest over this change.

The Academic Planning and Policy Committee (APPC) has suggested limiting enrollment to the 151 Art History major students. But Art History Students' Association (AHSA) President, Siu Challans, said, "We are not in favour of lim-

ited enrollment as there is no reason why students in other departments should not be allowed to take these courses."

The possible enrollment changes are being made to fight the growing problem of classroom overcrowding. Art History is the most underfunded department in the Faculty of Arts and, according to Challans, has "an appallingly high student to professor ratio, making the classes extremely overcrowded to the point

of being a fire hazard."

The department has a 42.5 to 1 student-professor ratio, which translates into approximately 1400 students for every five professors. The lack of teaching staff means the department is "unable to offer the basics such as Ancient Art, Northern Renaissance and Architectural History which are fundamental," said Challans.

The solution thus far to the problem of overcrowding has been to

offer another Introduction to Art History section. This means professors are overworked and, according to Challans, "denied the opportunity to treat their subjects with the depth and concentration required."

The APPC may also suggest the allocation of funds to hire more professors. "Ideally we need two more professors, but even one would make a difference," Challans said.

Though there is speculation of internal administrative conflict that may impede proceedings, the solution to the department's difficulty "is a problem which both students and professors are working on together," said Maria Battaglia, Vice President University Affairs.

hyde park

The other side of the abortion

It would be nice to be able to say that abortion is simply about life and death. That control over life and death is not a human right, and that therefore abortion as a participation in death is wrong. Cut and dry.

Were I to cling to this argument, I would have to overlook the fact that I'm about to eat corned beef for supper, and the fact that I'm writing on paper made from once-living trees.

I don't cling to this argument. Death may be full of absolutes, but life just isn't. In life, nothing stays absolutely right, or absolutely wrong. We are stuck dealing in relatives.

Abortion, for instance. Abortion is about life and death, but that's not all it's about. Abortion is also about women. Sometimes that gets forgotten. Abortion occurs within a life, and within a life wrongs and rights

just refuse to stay in one place, refuse to stay reduced to just one wrong and just one right.

Abortion is particularly tricky, with moral wrongs flying all over the place, like arrows in a siege. The life and death part is easy: most of us think humans involved in the death of other humans is wrong. It is murder. Some of us think that the fetus is a human, or close enough to one, and so see abortion as murder.

The woman part is harder. On this particular world stage, women get to play the role of babycarrier. Being babycarrier, however, is never their only role. Sometimes they are simply unable to play all the parts at once.

And so, abortion. Despite all the legal and moral rulings on the life and death part, women have individually always gone on their merry way, procuring abortions for themselves. It is surprising what

they will risk and endure in order to escape the role of babycarrier. Women, it seems, are going to have abortions, regardless. In the 1950s, a time of relatively sophisticated medical procedures, about one million women per year had illegal abortions in the U.S. More than one thousand of those women, per year, died as a result.

All recorded history records abortions. It is surprising to discover that all recorded history does not also record the illegality or the immorality of abortions.

British common law, dating back to the 13th century, for instance, allowed abortion until the "quickening"—when a woman first feels the fetus move.

For centuries, the Catholic Church allowed abortion until the fetus became "animated" by the "rational soul" (which was 80 days for a female and 40 days for a male.

Lord only knows how they knew what the sex of the fetus was.) It wasn't until 1869 that the Catholic Church, under Pope Pious IV, declared all abortion murder. The western states kicked in with criminality laws against abortion at about the same time.

Why is that? The facts of life and death do not change; they are, supposedly, the two absolutes we live with. Presumably then, what changed in the 19th century, and brought along with it a change in attitudes to abortion, was the perception of the roles of women. Abortion is, after all, about women.

Anti-abortion legislation in the mid-nineteenth century seems to have been, primarily, part of an anti-feminist backlash. The growing movements for women's right to vote, to own property rather than be property, to education. These were threatening to change the roles of women. Some people didn't like that.

And as then, now. Abortion laws have just been struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada. Feminism has enjoyed a strong limelight for the last two decades. Observe the backlash.

Abortion is not ever only about the possible life and possible death of a fetus. It is also about the rights of women to choose what role they play and when they play them.

There is a woman on the other end of that umbilical cord, and she's going to make up her own mind. How she carries out her choice, however, is up to us. Laws don't have much effect on a woman's decision to go ahead and have an abortion. Laws do have an effect on the kind of abortion she's going to have. Please, speak out.

Sophie Wilson
Ronit Bezaled
Gwen Burrows

Lisa Dubar
Eva-Lynn Jague
of the McGill Women's Union

letters

Justice Ignored In Gosset trial

To the Daily:

I was very disappointed when I heard that Allan Gosset would be tried for manslaughter in the shooting death of Anthony Griffin when circumstances clearly suggested murder. And I was absolutely appalled to learn that this man had been acquitted and absolved of even that watered down charge. For me, as a person already cynical of the legal system, with few delusions about the righteousness of the judicial system or about the integrity of law enforcement officials, that not-guilty verdict still came as a powerful shock.

To respect the court's decision on this case is to believe that Allan Gosset was not even negligent in his actions on the day he killed Anthony Griffin. We must believe that the officer's gun was accidentally unholstered, that it was accidentally aimed, that the trigger was accidentally pulled, and that an unarmed, unthreatening young man was accidentally slugged square in the head. Such an amazing chain of coincidences can do no less than aggressively challenge the gullibility of even the most credulous.

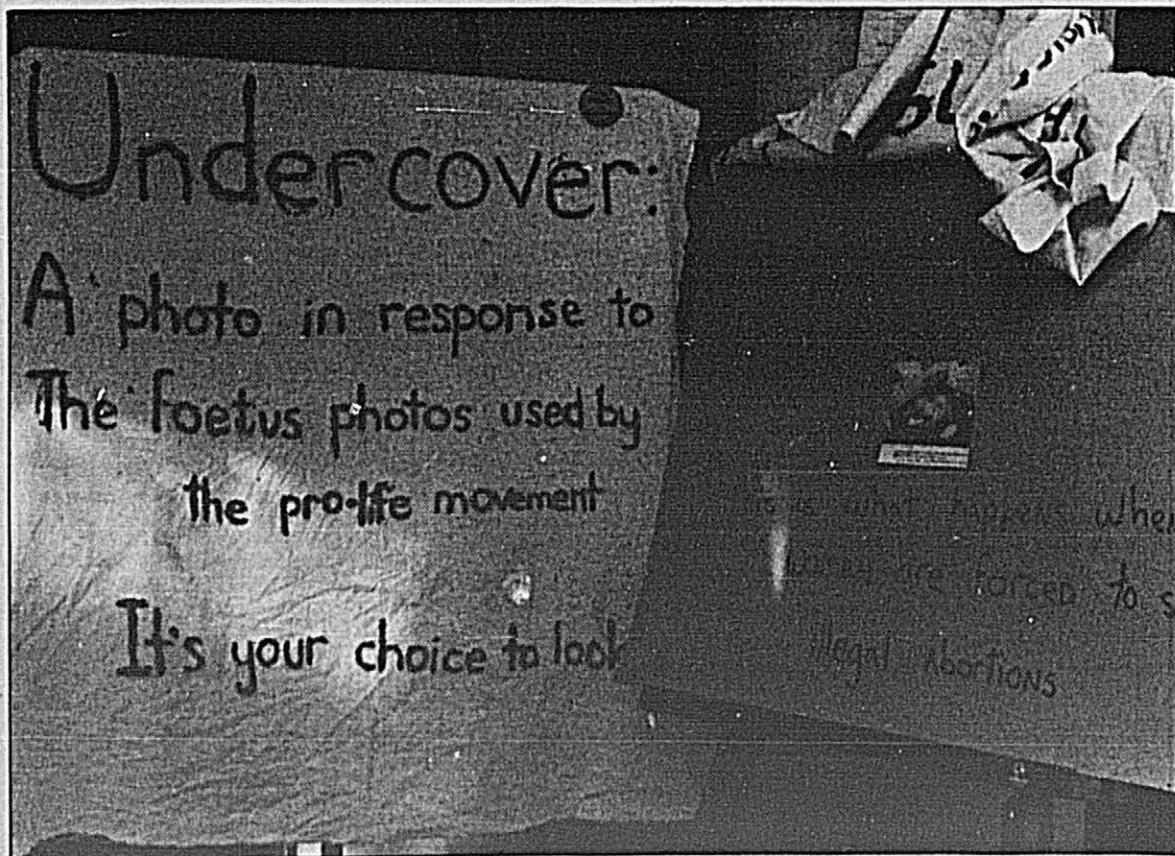
What does this say about our judicial system? What does this say about the society we all participate in?

It would appear that justice is not blind, that in the event of legal contention between a black teenager who, admittedly, does not sport an untarnished halo and a white police officer with prior violations against a black man, our courts are not at all shy about making judgements in bold defiance of our much exalted principles of fairness and equality.

Perhaps we should understand that this facet of our society does not necessarily foster or reflect the same moral convictions that we uphold.

And perhaps the next time we hear it spoken of 'the full force of the law', we should realise that it has the full force of a tonne of concrete for some and that of a down feather for others.

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An easel of response: Women's Union answers McGill Christian Fellowship anti-abortion display.

May a Labrador puppy poop on your batik.
—Stephanie Lachowicz to Kirsten Fenton.

the mcgill Daily

77th year of publication

hyde park

QPIRG quips

This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday you're going to be asked to vote. One of the things you can vote about is the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) referendum question. A brief look at the QPIRG issue is therefore in order.

By now, most students have heard something about how QPIRG would work. You've probably heard that research, education and action are the guide words for the 138 PIRGs on campuses across North America. But this is an abstract concept and many people want to know the actual issues QPIRG will tackle. Specific projects will not be selected until QPIRG is set up and a campus-wide election has determined the student directors of QPIRG. These directors will choose the issues to be dealt with. Individuals and clubs from across campus will submit proposals for potential PIRG projects to this board of directors. Examples of Canadian PIRG work should give some idea of what can be expected of QPIRG.

There are eight PIRGs operating in Canada so far and they have demonstrated many successes. PIRGs in Ontario have published books about acid rain and toxic wastes that have been used as case-study texts in university courses. Also in Ontario, guidebooks on tenants' rights are published by each PIRG chapter and made available to students and other members of the community. In British Columbia, PIRGs have been watchdogs of agencies charged with protecting workers' health. B.C. PIRGs have also set up an internship program giving the student press direct access to the provincial legislature. On some campuses, PIRGs have set up a program where re-usable coffee mugs are used at a discount and are replacing the use of non-biodegradable Styrofoam cups commonly used in cafeterias. One Canadian PIRG has established a campus-based food co-op.

But there are already clubs on campus that deal with some of these "public interest" issues, won't QPIRG duplicate the efforts of these clubs? The answer is: no, the PIRG structure is unique and is typically used as a resource by other campus groups. The sound financial grounding of QPIRG will be used to establish a permanent office/resource center and hire full-time administrators and research coordinators. Individual students and/or clubs can work on issues of their concern in a co-operative manner with QPIRG; they will benefit from the facilities and staff, and the associated organization, efficiency and continuity made possible by the year-round operation of QPIRG.

Didn't something appear in the *Daily* a few weeks ago that made QPIRG sound like it isn't such a good idea? Yes, an article and an editorial Comment that were extremely anti-QPIRG appeared in the February 17th issue of the *Daily*. Unfortunately, the journalistic texts were riddled with blatant errors and half-truths, and oozed a pre-established bias. The *Daily* has already acknowledged its errors in an "Erratum" and a "Notes from Below" in the issue of March 2nd. The half-truths are being dealt with in letters to the editor. The few reasonable points that were raised in the February 17th issue have already been addressed in a letter from some members of the QPIRG Organizing Club that was printed in the *Daily* of March 2nd. Constructive criticism is healthy and warranted in the face of what has evolved into an enormous campaign. Unfortunately, the bulk of the criticism to date has not been constructive.

Thus far, the efforts of the QPIRG campaign at McGill have met with substantial approval. The last four months have seen the membership of the organizing club rise to over 250 people. An extensive awareness and education campaign has been run. Over 5200 students have signed a petition supporting QPIRG, bringing about the first-ever student-initiated referendum at McGill. The executive council of the Students' Society has ratified the group's constitution. The referendum campaign has begun and a 'YES' committee has been established. The next step is the referendum vote this week.

If the idea of students having a real opportunity to work in an effective and organized way on some of today's most important issues appeals to you — VOTE "YES" for QPIRG. Your "YES" vote will help channel the energy and organization you've seen in the QPIRG campaign to date into the establishment of a non-profit QPIRG corporation that will really get things done.

The QPIRG Organizing Club

letters

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Allan Gosset killed Anthony Griffin, was brought before the law, and was let off scot free. In more cynical moments I might say that, no, the process of law was not aborted, nor was there a miscarriage of justice, because there was not even the conception of justice.

Ken Yee Yip
Science U1

City insists it *does* hear minorities

To the Daily:

I'm sorry that your reporter badly misunderstood the context of the public hearings held by City Council's Cultural Development Commission ("City doesn't hear minorities," *McGill Daily*, February 10) by suggesting that the city was not interested in hearing about racism or the need for affirmative action.

There are five new commissions of City Council which are holding public hearings every week on a variety of topics. The Cultural Development Commission, of which I am president, is responsible for making policy recommendations to Council on cultural matters (as in artists, library, film, music), not cultural communities (as ethnic and national groups).

Our concern about the relationship between municipal cultural policy and inter-ethnic relations is demonstrated by the fact that the very first subject we decided to consult the public on is how cultural policy in the city should be relevant to an increasingly multi-ethnic population. However, this does not mean that our commission has jurisdiction to deal with ALL questions concerning minorities, racism or hiring. Other commissions of council and the MUC are examining such questions, in public, at this time.

The invitations we sent to over 800 organizations indicated the questions we were interested in, including the City's role in balancing the promotion of majority and minority cultures, the wisdom of aiming particular municipal programs at particular communities, the need for multi-cultural aspects in all municipal cultural activities, etc.

Representations from groups drawing links between social conditions including discrimination, racism, poverty and the cultural needs of Montréalers have been welcomed by the Commission. Clearly, all cultural policy is intimately connected to an understanding of social conditions and the role of culture in that society. We spent hours questioning organization-organizations who argued that much current cultural policy was discriminatory, encouraged ghetto-ization, etc.

In cases where groups came to us to tell us that the city was racist because there weren't enough Black police, we questioned them on how municipal

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Access McGill given support on referendum by national organization

On February 22, 1988, I received a letter from Sam Miller, Chairman of Access McGill. Enclosed with the letter was a comprehensive package of newspaper articles, policy statements, and correspondence outlining the current plight of disabled students at McGill University.

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS), as Canada's voice for disabled post-secondary students, has always supported the initiative and self-determination of campus groups like Access McGill. Your disabled student's organization is recognized throughout the country as a progressive body of concerned persons with disabilities, which has made great strides over the years in improving accessibility and services for disabled students at the university. However, they can't do it alone! And there is only so much an organization like Access McGill can accomplish as a campus club with no commitment from the university to allocate sufficient funding for basic services for these students. For that reason, NEADS applauds the referendum initiated by Access McGill, and the Joint Committee for the Disabled. In case you don't already know, the referendum proposes to levy, for a period of two years, a fee of two dollars per student per semester. The resulting revenue (approximately \$160 000) would be allocated for the provision of services, equipment and facilities for disabled students on the campus.

There will be a campus-wide student vote to decide the issue on March 9th, 10th and 11th. This money is desperately needed, to put the disabled student population at McGill on an equal footing with other non-disabled students. Sam Miller explained the situation to me in this way:

"When an academic building is not accessible, disabled students become the victims of that situation. We may have to change buildings where we are studying, change programs, or we may not be able to attend the university at all. McGill has very good academic programs that we have a right to take. But it is not on a par with other universities; in terms of basic services for disabled students we are eight to ten years behind."

I would concur fully with this statement. The disabled students on your campus are asking for their right to equal access: to services, to buildings, to programs; and most importantly equal access to a higher education at McGill, which is their right.

The funds which would be raised if this referendum is a success, will ensure that there is a budget in place for the office of the Co-ordinator of Disabled Students. It will pay for many services on campus, including: improved building-to-building transportation, technical aids to assist the visually impaired and learning disabled, and wheelchair ramps. But most significantly, it will begin a process of positive change, at an old university that seems to have overlooked many of the needs of a highly talented and motivated group of students.

I urge you to vote on March 9th, 10th and 11th, to lend your support to equalize opportunities for your disabled classmates, and, I wish Access McGill every success in the future.

Frank Smith
Co-Ordinator
National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS)

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letters

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cultural policy might alleviate racism. For those groups who had absolutely nothing to tell the Cultural Development Commission about cultural policy, we had to inform them that police were not within our jurisdiction. To conclude from this that the "City doesn't hear minorities" is like criticising the history department for not teaching geometry.
Sam Boskey
Vice-president
City council Commission on cultural Development

Dubbing laws unfair

To the Daily:

If someone should tell you that we live in a Democratic society; tell them you know better, democracy implies freedom of speech, of choice and expression. Obviously in view of Bill 109, a review of what the Québec government defines as freedom and Democracy is in order.

According to Bill 109, an English film can not be released or presented in the province of Québec until a French translation has been completed and released. As a result, we, as citizens of Québec (French and English) are prohibited (i.e. forbidden) from seeing films such as 'Broadcast News' or 'Raw'. In fact, if the film can not be properly translated, it will never be released. Now there's freedom of choice for you.

If we profess to live in a free society; where are the signs of this freedom? Being both French and English, I can understand the needs of the French, to uphold and maintain their french culture. However, it seems that a society that can only uphold it's culture through the stamping out of the freedoms of another is not a culture to be maintained.

Andrea Vidette
BA U2

QPIRG comment comment

To the Daily:

The QPIRG Organizing club has spent a great deal of time and energy informing McGill students about the possibility of creating their own Public Interest Research Group. However, it seems that no amount of good faith or hard work can prevent a Daily writer from misunderstanding and misrepresenting an issue. Stephanie Lachowicz's 'comment' regarding the creation of QPIRG (in the Feb. 17th issue of the Daily) fails to provide even a semblance of rational opinion, and ventures instead into ill-conceived, alarmist speculations. Indeed, such must be the case when one attempts to reproach an organization which does not yet exist for wrongs it has not yet committed. Lachowicz's evaluation of QPIRG, and her bleak assessment of what QPIRG 'may' become are founded on a troubling combination of falsehood and conjecture. She asserts that QPIRG will "do the work" of all the lobbying organizations existing in Québec, and will therefore be a mere duplication of these groups. A QPIRG is intended to focus on community involvement and concrete results, while endeavoring to work in cooperation with other groups. We feel it is necessary to address the disturbing claim that there are already enough groups involved in social issues, and that a PIRG, by its mere existence, would be "contradictory" and "detrimental" to these groups. Are we to assume that there is a shortage of public interest issues, and that a PIRG would corner the market on positive social change? We contend that existing, urgent needs render pointless such petty and competitive territorial considerations. Perhaps Lachowicz would like to

explain to every student who is being fleeced by his/her landlord, and every homeless person who is turned away from a shelter that there are already far too many groups worrying about them.

Julie Godin
Law U1
Mark Cameron
Arts U2
Ian Scott
Science U3

Bursting the Pro-Choice balloon

To the Daily:

In response to the article, "Supreme Court Takes Step for Women" by Susie Petersiel, I hate to burst the wonderful balloon, I am just as happy as anyone that a woman's right to choose has finally been recognized by the Supreme Court, however, some remnants of injustice remain:

- Therapeutic abortion committees will continue to exist in some Canadian hospitals such as in British Columbia.
- Abortion clinics will not be set up and funded by provincial governments in provinces other than Québec.
- Abortions will still only be available in accredited hospitals, and some not covered under medical insurance plans, again, in provinces other than Québec.
- Not allowing abortions to be performed in a day surgery or clinic often means that women must undertake general anesthesia (against their will if doctors refuse those who request local anesthetics)

For women of wealth, they can choose to go to the states and have the procedure done with a local anesthetic and avoid many of the risks of general anesthetics, however, needless to say, women who are not wealthy cannot make this choice.

Provincial controls on health are far greater than one might think. Also, there seems to be a syndrome developing among the politicians: passing the buck on the whole issue. The issue is not, in fact, that complicated. The question is ask is, does the potential life of a foetus come before the life of a full-grown existing adult woman? My concern in a generally sexist society would be the last word—woman. It is the woman who has been continually denied rights of all kinds throughout history, it's about time some of those rights are finally being recognized.

Another small correction I would like to point out is that use of the term 'pro-lifers'. They are *not* called such by anyone except themselves. I wish to reiterate here that they are clearly not 'pro-life', they are pro-foetus and anti-woman. The pro-choice movement correctly calls them anti-abortionists.

The abortion issue is only the tip of the iceberg in acquiring our full reproductive rights. This is only the beginning. Women: we have come a long way, but we have a long way to go. As Gloria Steinham says, "We have two choices: masochist or feminist." Take your pick.

Anna Felindel
R.N. B.Sc. U1

More than just condoms

To the Daily:

While I applaud the efforts of those people who put together an interesting and informative Special AIDS issue, I am concerned about the lack of specific information about safe sex for heterosexuals and lesbians. The impression one is left with after reading, "Learning to live with latex" is that if you've got condoms, you're fine. However, the penis is not the be-all and end-all of sex. Other items which are available for safe sex are 1) dental dams, that is, four by five inch squares of latex to be used during cunnilingus or rimming and 2) latex gloves, to be used during fist fuck-

ing or even masturbation. Also, condoms can (and should) be used to protect sex toys such as dildoes.

It should also be noted that in New York there have been four or five cases of one woman transmitting AIDS to another through sex, not needles. Lesbians may be low risk but they are not immune and therefore require safe sex information.

Nalrue Holtz
English, U2

To the Daily:

I have just finished reading the load of twaddle that you tried to pass off as journalism: "PIRG vote may happen in March" (Daily Feb. 17). If I didn't know better I would have thought I was reading an article from Linda Frum's old rag *McGill University Magazine*.

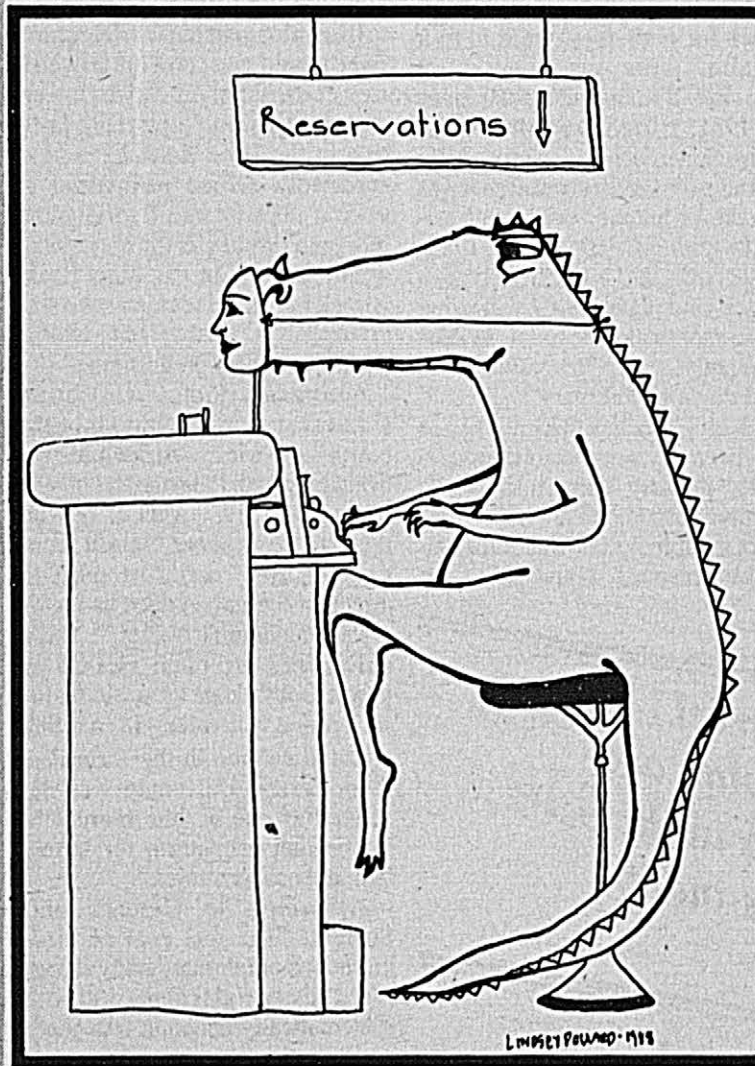
The article is so full of distortions and disinformation that I hardly know which to address first. As a former co-ordinator of the Concordia QPIRG club, I can assure you that former members of QPIRG have by no means "disassociated themselves from the new PIRG campaigns at McGill and Concordia" as you stated. In fact, every former member that I have talked to fully supports the new campaign. Since you already retracted

feels that QPIRG is a threat to this.

I believe some history is in order. Several years ago, when McGill held a similar referendum to approve a campus PIRG, the *Daily* attacked the Students' Society for spreading the same sort of misinformation contained in your article. But I guess that was when the *Daily* took seriously its constitutional mandate to support groups committed to social change. I would like to think this article was simply the result of a reporter not doing her homework. But on the same page a Comment piece appeared, written by a *Daily News* editor, continuing the hatchet job (much of which she had to subsequently retract in an erratum). This can't be a coincidence. It is interesting to note that the Young Tories of Canada have a policy of opposing campus PIRGs. It seems that sleazy politics make strange bedfellows. Cigarette?

P.S. The term "gyp" as used in your comment headline, "The gyp of the ice-PIRG" is extremely racist as gypsies don't particularly like the pejorative connotations of the term, which is roughly equivalent to the phrase "To jew somebody down".

Max Wallace
Concordia Student



some of your false statements, I will not go into these in detail.

As for the specious claim that QPIRG merely duplicates existing services, this is nonsense. QPIRG exists to facilitate the objectives of these existing organizations. If, for example, the women's collective wanted to conduct a survey into sexual harassment on campus they could go to QPIRG, which would then offer resources, volunteers and funding for the study. This is exactly what happened at BCPIRG two years ago, where their sexual harassment survey is considered a model for North American universities.

As for Carlene Gardner's statements about QPIRG duplicating the goals of existing student lobby groups, her hidden agenda is so obvious that she might as well be up front about it. It is not difficult to figure out that she wants McGill to join ANEEQ and

Don't think for us, thank you

To the Daily

How are we to take seriously the efforts of the McGill Southern Africa Committee and Project Ploughshares to support the establishment of just societies when they engage in the same paternalism as those who they are fighting against; namely, that they are better qualified to determine the truth behind a political conflict than the individual McGill student? This paternalism is similar in form, if not scope or content to that practiced by the South African government when it has proposed that it has a better understanding of the interests of Blacks than they do themselves. In "Contra at McGill evokes outrage," (Daily, Feb. 2.) SAC co-ordinator May Chiu and Ploughshares member Jamie Kneen wish to deny McGill students the opportunity to come to their own conclusions after hearing the opposing

viewpoints in the Nicaraguan conflict, ie they wish to determine the truth for McGill students on this subject.

Chiu said, "We know what the issues are so we can't feign ignorance and pretend to be 'objective' in order to give the contras a platform to spread more lies and propaganda." His Excellency Ambassador Martinez could also have used his platform Monday to spread "lies and propaganda" (perhaps in the eyes of some McGill students he did). If indeed a speaker uses the platform to lie, those more informed persons present at a well-publicized event can expose the untruths in the ensuing discussion period, by protest, etc. The listener is thus afforded an opportunity to decide the issue on its own merits, and to judge firsthand the truth of the speaker's statements. Instead the paternalistic approach affords no such opportunity, and offers only its own conclusion as the conclusion for all.

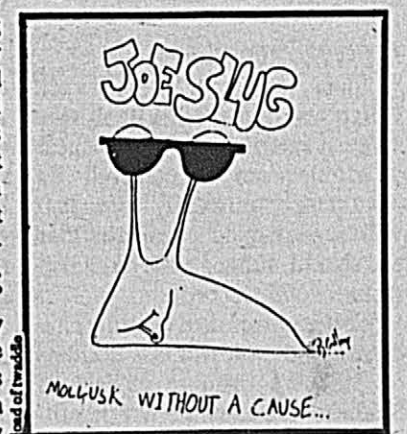
Certainly many claim they "know what the issues are," but with so controversial a topic we doubt that a consensus could easily be reached, as Chiu and Kneen seem to imply. The elitism demonstrated by the wish to deny other persons access to information makes a mockery of SAC's anti-apartheid efforts of race elitism, South Africa.

A healthier attitude is shown in a quote from an article elsewhere on the front page: "Shit-disturbers are welcome... it's important that people hear as many views as possible." The PSSA is implementing this principle by inviting Chamorro to speak, and not trying to say, "that a foreign-sponsored mercenary army has as much legitimacy as a freely elected, popular government." The PSSA is providing students with the opportunity to hear Chamorro and to attack what they perceive to be the lies he tells, in front of those who may think otherwise; naturally those others will have the chance to defend his position. As to the "confrontational questions" posed to Minister Martinez, even if they arose from a "disappointing lack of understanding" as McMurphy of the McGill Central America Group saw it, they cannot be discounted. In this era of powerful state regulation of societies, the "good faith" of any government must be critically scrutinized.

Let nothing be misconstrued—we are both in favour of the current Nicaraguan government; we both support the end of apartheid. However, we cannot support the paternalistic, elitist stance taken by SAC and others on the issue of allowing a contra to speak. Kant said, "Have the courage to use your own reason." As independent and free 'rational beings' we do not want our thinking to be done for us.

Molra MacDonald
U2 Arts
Graham Kern
U2 Arts

Ed note: SAC merely withdrew sponsorship of the week. They did not demand that Ybarra not speak. At press time Wednesday, our best information had it that Chamorro would speak. The change was a last minute one. Also, the Nicaraguan Ambassador's name is Lacayo, not Martinez as was reported (also based on PSSA's best information).



Learning under occupation

For Palestinian students and professors living under Israeli military occupation, academic freedom and access to educational facilities have become privilege, not a right.

by Mitu Sengupta

For Palestinian students and professors living under Israeli military occupation, academic freedom and access to educational facilities have become a privilege, not a right.

On February 4, Israel closed all Palestinian academic institutions in the occupied territories—indeinitely. The decision affects more than 800 schools and over 250 000 Palestinian students.

Colleges and universities have been the hardest hit. All six were closed earlier this year following the riots that broke out on December 9. Israeli officials say these closings are necessary because the "disturbances" affect academic life at schools.

Decisions like these are not new. Since 1979, there has been a dramatic increase in government restriction of academic freedom in the West Bank and Gaza strip. Through disruption of academic curriculum, funding and freedom of association, Israel has effectively suppressed any political activity in the universities.

Specific violations of academic freedom include official and

ions in any way—and if they do, they are subject to either individual or collective punishment," he said.

Institutions of higher learning in the West Bank and Gaza strip have been officially and unofficially closed a number of times since 1979. Such collective punitive action against Birzeit University has been the most publicized, although most other institutions have faced similar problems.

Birzeit has been closed more than ten times in the last ten years, sometimes for periods of three to four months. After several days of anti-Israeli student demonstrations in 1981, Birzeit was shut down from November to January. After opening for barely six weeks, it was closed for another two-month period beginning February 16, 1982.

This year, the University has been closed since January 10, following a one-month closure order. Bethlehem and Hebron Universities were shut down on February 2.

Although these universities have not been permanently closed, Israeli military authorities in the occupied territories are allowed to erect roadblocks anywhere for "security reasons." Universities are

attempt by the Israeli government to impose an anti-PLO pledge on all foreign instructors in the summer of 1982. The pledge read, "I hereby declare that I am fully committed against indulging in any act and offering any assistance to the organization called the PLO or any other terrorist organization that is considered to be hostile to the State of Israel...."

A vast majority of faculty members did not sign this, refusing to make political declarations of any sort. Eventually, 50 were deported from the West Bank.

Israel also maintains strict control over certain aspects of the universities' curriculum. An-Najah University and Hebron Polytechnic Institute in the West Bank have been repeatedly denied permission to open a department of agriculture, although farming is the major economic activity in the West Bank. Birzeit has faced restrictions on its community service and educational internship programmes.

According to Professors Deborah Greener and Philip Schrod of the North American Academics in Solidarity with Palestinian Universities (NAASPU), a lot of official rhetoric exists about "Israeli security concerns" and "the need to maintain the universities as legitimate educational bodies." These universities are often viewed by Israeli authorities as a cover for subversive activities. In a 1981 editorial column in the *Jerusalem Post*, Birzeit University was described as one of "the sources of intellectual inspiration for terrorism in these territories."

According to Greener and Schrod, "The real goal of these violations of internationally recognized human rights appears to be to systematically undercut independent Palestinian nationalism and to make impossible the development of an intellectual elite capable of serving in leadership positions within the Palestinian society."

Restricting political activity

Israeli authorities have harassed and arrested both students and educators for engaging in political activities against Israel. "At least half of the students have been arrested at least once in their life," said Aziz. In 1986, 35 faculty members of the Islamic University in the Gaza strip, including the Principal, were deported.

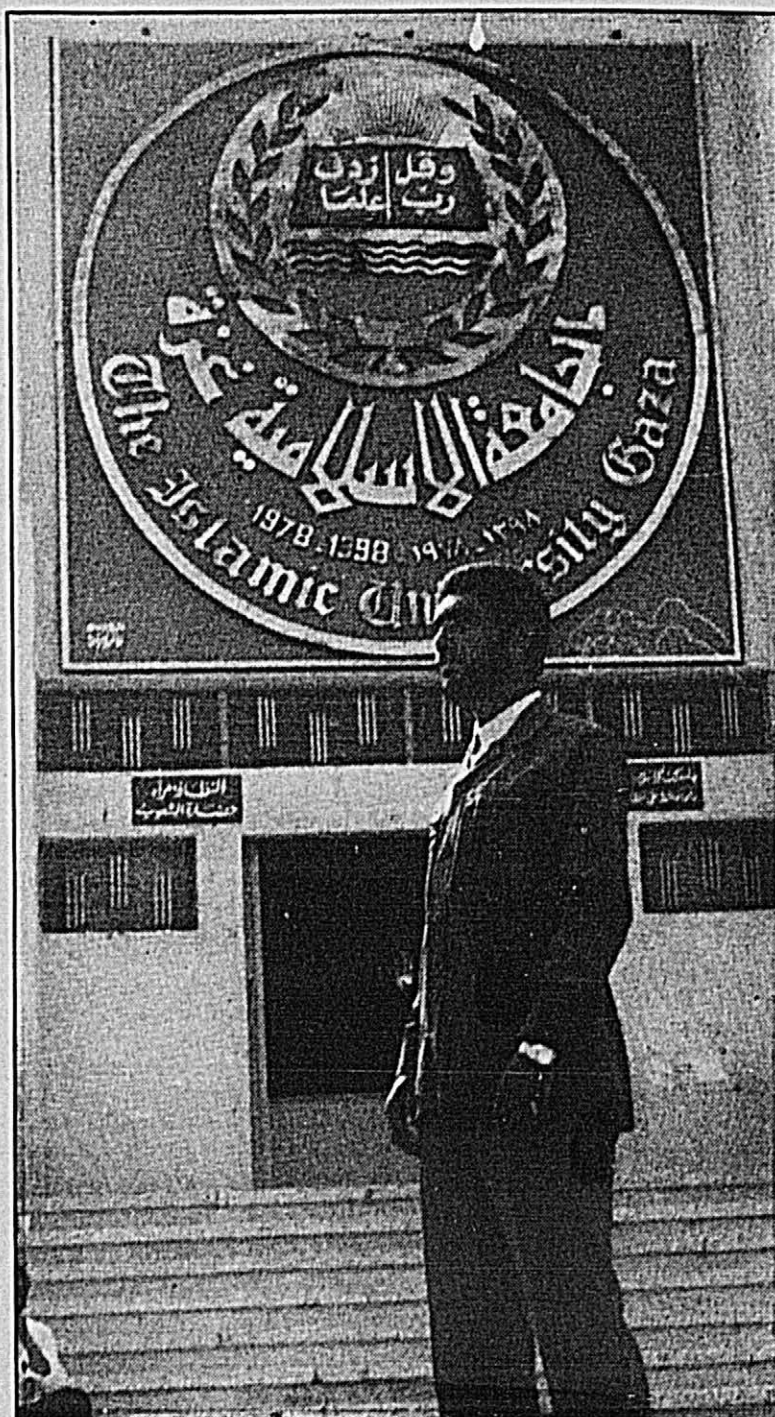
According to Aziz, it is virtually impossible for students to disassociate themselves from politics in the occupied territories. "You run away from politics, but they catch up with you—when you can't afford a book because your parents

frequently targeted, making it virtually impossible for students and faculty to reach campus.

Ideological censorship

Censorship of books and periodicals is a less direct but equally effective way to suppress academic freedom. Israeli censorship has left Palestinians in the occupied territories without access to over 1500 newspapers, books and periodicals. And differential taxation policies make it difficult for these universities to import educational material. Palestinian universities are not granted the tax-exempt status Israeli universities enjoy, so a non-refundable tax must be paid on almost every item imported—including books, periodicals, lab equipment and computers.

Another highly publicized violation of academic freedom was an



Palestinian student outside the Islamic University at Gaza.

On February 4, Israel closed all Palestinian academic institutions in the occupied territories-indefinitely.

unofficial closures of colleges and universities in this region, restriction and censorship of books and periodicals, harassment of students and faculty and differential taxation policies.

Collective punishment

Lubna Aziz, a student at Birzeit University in the West Bank who spoke at McGill last year, said these difficulties are encountered by most students on a daily basis. Aziz will be graduating a year later than she should, although she has a perfect academic record.

"This is not an ideal learning situation," said Professor Issa Boullata of McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies. "Students are not permitted to express their political opin-

aren't working." Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza strip have a per capita income of US \$750 compared to Israel's \$5 200.

According to Birzeit Professor Munir Fasheh, political activity is an important aspect of education. Fasheh stressed the importance of political activity towards creating "new attitudes, values, and intellectual models that will help students understand and be critical about what is going on around them."

Despite the government's characterization of Palestinian universities as subversive institutions, an independent report conducted in 1981 by a group of Hebrew University professors failed to substantiate this claim. The report said that at universities in the West Bank, "Academic activity is conducted according to accepted norms and their administrations strive for the advancement and regular maintenance of this activity."

History and education

Birzeit University and the other five universities in the West Bank and Gaza strip did not have full academic status until 1967. Prior to the 1967 war, the West Bank was under Jordanian occupation. Israeli control cut off student access to universities in other Arab nations, particularly Jordan's national university in Aman.

According to Boullata, difficulties of language and discrimination made it almost impossible for these Palestinians to study at the Hebrew Universities in Israel. Study abroad was very expensive, and only a few Palestinians were able to leave their homeland. Boullata said the need for institutions of higher learning in the occupied territories forced the Palestinians to set up their own universities.

"Although Israeli authorities claim that the development of these universities after 1967 indicates the beneficial nature of the occupation, the truth is that the Palestinians built these institutions in spite of the difficulties encountered since the occupation," he said.

These universities are financed by Palestinians, Arab nations, North American supporters and various churches and human rights groups. Tuition at Birzeit, like the other five universities, at US\$600 is considered quite expensive. Only a few scholarships are available for students who meet the high academic requirements of these universities.

Currently, university administrators are considering the idea of an 'Open University' which will enable students to study and complete their degree programs without having to attend an actual university campus.

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, room B-17, Student Union Building, 9am - 3pm. Deadline is 2pm two weeks prior to date of publication.

McGill students: \$3.00 per day; \$7.00 for 3 consecutive days; \$2.00 per day for more than 3 consecutive days. McGill faculty and staff: \$4.00 per day. **Exact change only, please.** Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad / per day - no discounts on boxing.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

341 - APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING

5 1/2 to share - room with fireplace, wood floors, furnished or not (some Ikea), on St-Marc. Laundry room, near 24 hour store. \$240 + hydro. Available May-Sept. 939-0933.

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Apt to sublet! Great room in student building opposite Currie Gym on Pine. Wood floors and only \$175/month. Come take a look! Call anytime - 848-9613.

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Roommate wanted for September, must like cats and have good sense of humor. Please call Lisa 939-0236.

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Graduate students wishing to work during university exam period as invigilators: apply now [before March 14] to Jan Lundgren, Chief Invigilator, Geography (tel: 4304).

Needed: assistant editor, production manager, full-time, bilingual, excellent English. Seriously interested in film/TV, hard working and independent. We offer short hours, bright pleasant surroundings, mediocre pay; a great education. Cinema Canada 272-5354.

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354 - TYPING SERVICES

Typing Services: English - resumes, \$5.00; letters, \$2.00; term papers and essays, \$1.25/page double-spaced for students. Rachel 933-0078 days & evenings. Near McGill.

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Herbal Hope for Hypoglycemia! A new 100% natural herbal extract nourishes the pancreas and helps restore blood sugar balance. Take your health into your own hands. Vitalité Illimitée 274-1012.

QPIRG's goal: student empowerment. If you haven't already been told that at least ten times, now you've been told. So vote 'Yes' this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday!

Health & Safety in the workplace. Prevent costly accidents, expenses, and loss of productivity with our Health & Safety in the Workplace seminars. Rick Blatter, 625-1352.

361 - ARTICLES FOR SALE

1985 Yamaha Beluga, 80cc motorscooter for sale. Only used in the Summer 1987. Excellent condition. \$850 or best offer. Call 683-1154 after 5pm weekdays.

Keep your beer cool! Small refrigerator for sale. Like new and only \$95.00. Better than renting! Come see it - I'm close on Campus. Call anytime 848-9613.

372 - LOST & FOUND

LOST - light brown leather jacket, with wallet, keys & grey crosspen. On Saturday night at Undergraduate Library. If found please call McGill Daily Business office. 398-6790. Reward!

LOST - one brown leather roots wallet somewhere between Arthur Currie and Arts Bldgs on Thursday March 3. If found please call 683-2621.

374 - PERSONAL

In serious need of lecture notes from September to present for Constitutional History of England, will pay \$25 for 24hr use. Call Deeda at 489-7387.

Feeling powerless? Or at least mildly frustrated with the status quo? Do something useful for a change. Contribute to the establishment of QPIRG. Vote 'Yes' March 9, 10, 11.

Will answer your questions. We'll do what we're able. Our purpose in life is to make your life more stable! Call Nightline... 398-6246.

Attractive female, new to Montreal, seeks male [22-25] who likes to have fun - for friend/casual relationship. Write J. Gray 4467 Draper HAA 2P3.

McGill Nightline... listening, information and referrals... till the wee hours of the morning. 7 days a week 6pm till 3am. 398-6246.

385 - NOTICES

McGill New Age Society! A new and exciting group on campus requires energy to prepare speakers, activities and other uplifting events. Contact Curtis at 274-1012.

QPIRG: Research, education, action. The key principles of getting things done. If you signed our petition - and even if you didn't - vote 'Yes' next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (March 9, 10, 11).

St-Martha's In-The-Basement. Weekly worship, Sunday 10:30am. Everyone welcome. 3521 University Street, Presbyterian-United Church Chaplaincy at McGill.

Visit Women's Union's tables International Women's Week! Information: abortion, birth control, feminism. March 7-10, 11:00 - 2:00 Monday & Wednesday, 10:30 - 1:30 Tuesday & Thursday. Union, Leacock, Arts.

387 - VOLUNTEERS

Individuals needed to help women's justice organization. Esp. students in Criminology, Law or Social Work. Call Ellen Simone, Elizabeth Frye Society. 277-7033.

389 - MUSICIANS WANTED

Want to perform (play any instrument, sing, etc.) in the Pugwash Coffeehouse? March 23, 7pm. Call Leslie 286-9866 or Farahad 848-9436.

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